



Unlocking Themes through Figurative Language: A Stylistic Analysis of Maki Kureishi's *Cripple* and *Curfew Summer*

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the use of figurative language in Maki Kureishi's two selected poems, *Cripple* and *Curfew Summer*. The research aims to investigate how Kureishi uses various literary devices to convey complex emotions and ideas, especially related to the themes of both poems. This study is based on qualitative method that finds out what figures of speech are used in both poems by applying stylistic techniques in it. This analysis interprets these devices and how they act in supporting and enhancing the overall purpose of the texts. The material for this research is collected from the original text of the poems, and also from other resources, including scholarly articles, books, and literary critiques. The analysis of poems through close reading helps in highlighting the figurative language, and how it pursues the reader towards comprehension of the poem's themes more effectively. In this analysis, major figures of speech are explored such as metaphor, personification, symbolism, and imagery. In the results, Kureishi's employment of figurative language is central to her poetic style. For example, in *Cripple*, she uses elements such as metaphor and imagery to examine themes of social isolation and personal resilience. Whereas In *Curfew Summer*, the use of personification and symbolism highlights the tensions and anxieties faced by people during the time of crisis. The research concludes that personification and metaphor are prominent devices in these poems. It emphasizes the importance of figurative language in uncovering the key themes in Kureishi's poetry and develops the reader's connection to the experiences described in the poems.



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Introduction

Poetry, usually written in verse, is a form of written expression. Poetry is an effective form through which human can express ideas, emotions, reactions, and responses. As Wordsworth said, "Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings, recollected in tranquility." It

means that poetry comes from intense emotions that flow out naturally. However, Instead of writing down emotions immediately, the poet reflects on them calmly and thoughtfully before creating the poem. The elements used in poetry, such as figures of speech, rearranged sentence structure, and rhythmic patterns distinguish poetry from other literary forms especially from prose. For instance, in William Blake's "The Tyger," the poem uses vivid images such as a fierce tiger, burning bright, and the dark forests of the night to explore the idea of creation. These concrete images help make the poem feel more tangible.

In Perrine's '*Sound and Sense*,' the writer considers figures of speech as an important tool in poetry. Figures of speech, according to him, allows the poet to express his ideas and emotions indirectly and also in a most creative way. The words used in poetry often go beyond its literal meanings which evoke deeper responses and paints more vivid images in the reader's mind. Moreover, in his book, he explains that figures of speech are not just used as decorative elements. They develop more feelings and intensify the emotions and help the readers to understand the ideas deeply. It sometimes make the text more complex to open different interpretations.

Literature is full of writers who are known for their use of metaphorical language, through which they create the layers of meaning. Emily Dickinson is the poet who is to be considered one of them. She is famous for her innovative use of figurative language. She, in her poem *I heard a Fly buzz*, employs metaphors, personification, symbolism, and imagery to examine the experience when someone is dying and the transformation between life and death. Robert Frost, a famous American poet, can also be counted as an excellent example of a poet who skillfully uses figures of speech to deepen the meaning of his poetry. He explores the complex themes by using his mastery of language and vivid imagery in his works. Frost's most of the works, especially poetry, revolves around nature, human experiences, and the difficulties individuals face when suffering from loneliness, making decisions, and going through changes. As far as his writing style, he uses simple and conversational language that is rich with layers of meaning. *The Road Not Taken* is one of his most famous poem in which he used figures of speech such as metaphors to give deeper meanings to everyday experiences. In this poem, the two diverging roads are displayed as metaphors for our own life's choices, symbolizing the decisions that shape our future. However, the roads are presented as common paths in the woods, still they indicate the challenging decisions that we all have to take.

As shown from the text above that Figures of speech are significant part of the poetry as they enhance both the meaning and emotional impact of the language. Leech (1969) states that, figures of speech play fundamental role in the language of poetry which serves as main tools that poet applies to communicate complex meanings, emotions, and aesthetics. These literary devices aid the reader understand and decode the poem's message. H.G. Widdowson in his work, *Stylistics and the Teaching of Literature* (1975), explains that figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, and personification are significant in shaping the readers' experiences in understanding a work. They encourage readers to think more on a deeper level and from different perspectives about the text. Maki Kureishi, a Pakistani poet, is considered one of the writers who successfully employ these techniques in her works. Some of her famous works include *Cripple*, *Kittens*, *Kite*, and *Curfew Summer*. She uses concise and poignant language in order to evoke strong emotional responses.

Maki Kureishi is a renowned Pakistani poet, playwright, and educator. She was born in 1927, Kolkata, and spent her early childhood in Ranchi and later moved to Pakistan at the time of

the partition. Maki Kureishi was diagnosed with polio and could not move or walk. This part of her life is also reflected in her works like *cripple*. She taught English literature for thirty years in Karachi University as an assistant professor. As Maki Kureishi saw the horrors that occurred after the partition, that's why her poetry often reflects the social and political issues in Pakistan. She provided the picture of the society of that time using the themes of identity, culture, displacement, and marginalization. Her major works include *Cripple*, *Past Midnight*, *Curfew summer*, *The Kittens*, *The Long Departure*, and *The Mirror*. Maki Kureishi's use of figures of speech plays an important role in sharing the profound meanings and emotional shade in her poetry. In *Cripple*, for example, the poem's name itself is a metaphor through which she portrays a physically disabled person referring to the broader theme of social exclusion and emphasizes that how society places restrictions on these kinds of people. Moreover, she uses other literary devices such as metaphors, similes, and personification to enhance her poetry.

Research Questions

- 1) How Maki Kureishi employs figures of speech in poems *Cripple* and *Curfew Summer*, and how it reflects her personal concern?
- 2) What are the different figures of speech used by the poet in the selected poems?
- 3) How do figures of speech contribute to conveying the themes in the selected poems by Maki Kureishi?

Statement of the Problem

The research encompasses stylistic techniques used by Maki Kureishi in her poems *Cripple* and *Curfew Summer* to portray her idea more effectively. This study is helpful for the readers through which they can easily interpret the works by taking figures of speech and using it as a lens. At the end of this analysis we will be able to know about the figures of speech utilized in the poems and how they advocate their themes. This Study demonstrates how Maki Kureishi challenges societal stereotypes towards disabled people in her poem *Cripple*, and in *Curfew Summer*, how she compares social and political conditions of that time with the burning grass, and spreading news of violence in the society. Ultimately, this analysis seeks to foster a deeper appreciation of poem's literary style and techniques.

Significance

This study significantly understands Maki Kureishi's poems from its stylistic perspective. There are not much works or research papers which has analyzed the poems of Maki Kureishi, especially the poems *Cripple* and *Curfew Summer*. This study provides an understanding focusing on the figures of speech within the poems. Additionally, the research will be helpful for the readers to understand that how Maki Kureishi conveys the different themes in her poetry through the means of stylistics.

Literature Review

Batool et al (2015) conducted stylistic analysis of the Poem *Leisure* by William Davies and gives a comprehensive stylistic examination of Davies' poem. By using Leech and Short's stylistic frameworks, the research analysis the structure of the poem, such as its iambic tetrameter and rhyming couplets, and it also looks into the use of figures of speech in the poem like Metaphor, personification, imagery, and simile, which emphasize the poem's themes of materialism and the modern man's disconnection from nature. The poet in this poem shows the comparison between the modern man and the beauty of nature through the

use of figurative language. Modern personal ways concentrates on wealth and materialistic things, indicating to the theme of materialism used in the poem. The poet suggests to a modern man that you should not fall for the materialistic wealth rather you should give more preference to the mental and physical health which more important that it. In this stylistic study, the researchers were able to explore the poem that what the poet wants to say in it. The poet employs some models like A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry by Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short, together with Longman's Exploring the Language of Poems, Plays, and Prose to interpret the poem. It was seen from the results of this study that the poem consists of seven rhyming couplets which are written in Iambic Tetrameter (aa: bb: cc: dd: ee: ff: aa). In addition, the most commonly used figure of speech in the poem is repetition.

Aslam et al (2014) examined Robert Frost's poem Bereft stylistically. They investigated how its form and language unveil deep emotions of loneliness and isolation. The research explores the poem on multiple levels, analyzing the graphological level, where they examined Frost's composition of the poem as an uninterrupted block without stanzas supporting a unified and cohesive structure. This consistency of structure creates a sense of isolation conveyed throughout the poem. If we look at the lexical level, the authors choose particular words that emphasize loneliness, such as using words like 'alone' and 'no one' to make the speaker feel intense isolation. The poet also uses nature-related words such as "deeper roar" or "frothy shore" which shows a sense of hostility from the natural environment which reflects the inner turmoil of the speaker itself. The authors emphasize the poem's rhyme scheme (AA-AA-AB-BA) and the alliteration used in it, like in the phrases "massed, hissed, missed." These choices add a rhythmic quality to the poem which creates a smooth and musical flow that reflects the speaker's deep and personal emotional side. Ultimately, the grammatical aspect shows that Frost uses punctuation deliberately to create pauses that reflect moments of awareness and reflection. Full stops and commas represent the poet's inner conflict and embrace of his isolation, denoting his separate ideas. Overall, Aslam et al dictates that the stylistic elements of the poem, such as vocabulary and punctuation give strength to its themes of loneliness, vulnerability, and resilience.

Zia (2017) studied John Keats' poem "Ode to A Nightingale" stylistically. The poem is counted as one of Keats' major works. The poem is recognized for its uniqueness and captivating style. The paper emphasizes that Ode to a Nightingale is remarkable and stands out among all his poems due to his use of the concept of 'Negative Capability'. The analysis focuses on not only examining stylistic devices but also their impact on producing a pictorial and emotive meaning in the poem. In order to create more impact, the poet uses Different figures of speech. This study analyzes the elements such as influential imagery, Metaphors, and Personification, providing the layers of meaning to the readers. The results of this research by Zia show the poet's use of some other figures of speech that helps in enhancing the themes of the poem and create a lasting impact. Author also looks at different levels, such as the phonetic level, phonological level, and the Graphological level.

Pambudi (2016) examines Robert Frost's Poems that how he has used figurative language in it. He analyzes Robert Frost's poems by looking at the use of figurative language, such as metaphors, symbols, and personification. Figures of speech enhance the meaning of poetry. Frost does not depict nature directly rather, he uses words such as woods, roads, and snow as signs of human emotions and experiences. For instance, when Frost mentions a path in a wood in his poem "*The Road Not Taken*", he wants to convey the idea of actual choices people make in life along with their consequences. Pambudi states that Frost gives human qualities in nature through the use of personification. This idea allows nature to become a part

of the human experience. *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, is one of the examples in which the woods appear to 'call' to the speaker, representing the tension between pausing and continuing with obligations. Frost uses figurative language to create layers of meaning. This enables readers to understand life more deeply. Simplicity is also one of the factors that his works carry out which makes it easily accessible. This thoughtful combination of simplicity and depth enables readers to personally relate to Frost's themes, including life's choices, inner struggles, and the beauty of nature.

Niazi (2013) has examined Lawrence's novel *Sons and Lovers* through the lense of stylistics. Niazi has gone through the novel by analyzing the writing style of Lawrence and how does it impact on themes and meanings within it. The study also investigates how D.H. Lawrence presents the figures of speech in his novel. Some other elements that Niazi explores include linguistic components such as vocabulary, sentence arrangement, and sound structures. By analyzing this component, this research has been successful in carefully identifying that how Lawrence's writing style underlines intricate themes, such as family connections and psychological insights. The method of stylistics that Niazi uses goes beyond the common interpretations of the novel by looking at the importance of Lawrence's writing technique in understanding the novel's more profound meanings. For instance, when he uses symbolism it improves the quality of narrative that somehow directs the readers in understanding the novel's complexity more distinctly. The research also shows that his complex writing style carry's a worth, as it engages readers in the emotional and psychological aspects of the character. Moreover, the research shows that sentence structures and imagery is carefully designed by the poet in this novel. They shade the light on feeling and struggles faced by the characters. Lastly, Niazi says that these stylistic components are significant for expressing the major themes of the novel.

Khan et al (2020) explores the various literary tools utilized by Maki Kureishi in her poem *Kittens*. In this study, through the unique style of language, the author has portrayed the pain and challenges that people of Pakistan and India faced after the partition. The poet utilizes the strong figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, and personification to evoke sense of sorrow and loss in readers of that period. For example, the word kittens itself symbolizes an innocent and weak person. The poet sheds light on the highly intense impact of partition on people by relating them to a very small and helpless kitten. The poem is full of imagery that readers can visualize, feel, and hear the scenes described by Kureishi. Her description of alone and empty places aids the reader in feeling loneliness and insecurity. By using vibrant imagery, she allows them to feel that they are experiencing the consequences of the partition in real-time. Kurieshi also uses symbols such as the kittens, which symbolize survival and loss in life. These symbols assist readers in connecting with the feeling of trauma and displacement faced by the people after the partition. Khan doesn't just look at the words but also the structure of the poem. He analyzes elements such as the poem's structure how the poem is it's arranged, rhythm, and the repetition of words. These elements in the poem create a kind of rhythmic pattern that reflects both distress and resilience. This method enables Khan to delve into the poem both emotionally and symbolically. He also links the personal experiences to a wider level, demonstrating that the poem can represent both a person's life and the greater challenges faced by society.

Figures of speech

Figures of speech are known to be the verbal expressions that are different from the literal meaning of words. They continuously improve the writing of authors by comprising layers of

meaning and emotional depth. Devices used to change literal language into figurative language include the following:

Metaphor

A metaphor is a literary device that compares two things without using *like* or *as*. The term 'metaphor' originates from the Greek word *metaphora*, signifying 'to transfer' or 'to carry over.' In easy words, a metaphor takes qualities from one thing and applies them to another, forming a connection without making an explicit comparison between the two. This kind of connection allows readers to perceive imaginative similarities, even when the two items are not literally connected. Metaphors create striking images that can evoke feelings. Moreover, they can simply express profound meanings and themes. The effectiveness of a metaphor often depends on the audience's common cultural background, which can affect their interpretation.

Simile

A simile is a type of figurative language that contrasts two unfamiliar things using the word 'like' or 'as'. It allows you to clarify or make something more interesting by referring it to another thing. In poetry, it makes concepts easier to picture and comprehend. They paint images that stir feelings about the emotions a poet wishes to convey. They allow us to think deeper about the poem by providing a subtle connection between ideas. With the help of similes, poets can produce additional levels of meaning or depth to the words they are writing.

Personification

Personification in simple words is a device that gives human qualities to nonhuman things like animals, objects, and ideas. In poetry, it gives a kind of life to images and allows us to relate to the poet. Moreover, poets personify aspects of nature, such as the sun or ocean, and present them as if they are alive. It helps to display the emotions of a subject in the poem. Personification can also establish the mood which transforms the setting into a more peaceful and desolate place. By giving human characteristics to nonhuman elements, poets create a stronger sense of connection for their readers.

Symbolism

Symbolism is a rhetorical tool in which an object, person, circumstance, or color indicates something apart from its literal meaning. This device is frequently employed in poetry to express deeper meanings or themes without clearly stating them. For instance, a rose may symbolize love as dark clouds could signify sadness or trouble. Symbols enhance the meaning of poems by introducing layers to the message. They can symbolize many themes in a poem, such as hope or loss, without writing them literally. Symbols encourage the reader's perspectives to understand the poem with their own multiple interpretations.

Irony

Irony shows a contrast between appearance and reality. In the poem, the irony is what is said is different from what is meant. Irony is frequently employed in poetry and literature to add humor, highlight a point, or uncover concealed truths. By using this literary device readers

can think more deeply about the message or theme shown in the poem. Irony is often used in three primary forms, *Verbal irony*, *Situational irony*, and *Dramatic irony*. Each of type serves distinct roles, enhancing depth, tension, and understanding of characters, themes, and situations.

Imagery

Imagery is utilized in many forms of literature such as poetry, novels, and various other literary formats. The usage of imagery engages reader's senses to create an image or concept in their mind. It does not only create a visual representation but also targets at communicating the sensory and emotional experience present in the text. At the time of reading imagery boosts reader's connection. Reader's senses of taste, smell, touch, hearing, or sight are targeted by imagery in literature via vibrant descriptions. Imagery can be fashioned through other literary techniques such as similes, metaphors, or personification.

Alliteration

Alliteration is a literary technique that introduces a musical aspect to language through the recurring of the familiar consonant sound at the starting of nearby words. It upgrades the poetry's flow and rhythm and makes it more pleasant to read. Additionally, alliteration takes the particular words or phrases and increases their quality of remembering them easily. It boosts the overall effect of a work by using the vivid imagery in it, serving as an influential tool that can enhance the language and charm the reader.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a type of literary device that creates exaggeration in the text on an intense level. It is employed to emphasize a point that ultimately evokes a powerful emotional reaction of a person. It presents a statement that is distinctly false or exaggerated, frequently bringing humor in the text, especially in drama. For example, when we say to someone, I have told you a thousand times not to do this, then it should not be interpreted literally but rather contextually by showing more force in prohibiting him from something.

Research Methodology

The research employs a qualitative method for grasping the occurrences and meanings depicted in Maki Kureishi's poems. This approach is fit for this analysis because it helps in analyzing the different literary techniques, themes, and emotional variations on a more profound level (Sukron and Haryadi, 2022). The purpose of this study is to answer some specific questions related to different types of literary devices used by Maki Kureishi, what are the most important themes, and the overall message transferred through her work. The data is gathered from the original text of the poems and as well as using the other resources such as scholarly articles, books, and literary critiques that discuss regarding figures of speech and poetry analysis. This research article strictly examines the various forms of figurative language, such as metaphors, similes, personification, and symbolism used in the poems.

Data Analysis

The poems given below are carefully analyzed by looking at their structure, diction, and the use of figures of speech like metaphors, similes, irony, and imagery. The analysis of Maki Kureishi's *Cripple and Curfew Summer* focuses on the poem's exploration of societal views on disability and the portrayal of the reality of harsh summer. Every stanza illustrates various aspects of endurance, ranging from the intense surroundings to the societal hurdles faced by people.

Poem: 1 Cripple

She is eighteen. A pretty girl

if you look at the face.

Fair skin—a point in favor.nice smile.

talented too, she sings.

She could have married well with those looks.

In the first stanza, the speaker introduces an eighteen-year-old woman, describing her external qualities that society considers beautiful. The lines highlight her talent and singing ability, showcasing her potential. This is particularly relevant in traditional societies, where a woman's beauty and talent are often linked to her value in marriage.

But the fine map of her face misleads.

Beyond it no one ventures.

eyes turn back embarrassed by a wrong address.

He body is a country

uprooted by earthquake. A landscape of stumps.

In the second stanza, the speaker remarks that the girl could have married someone of greater wealth and status. Although she has a beautiful map that looks appealing, it does not guarantee a happy life due to her disability. People often feel embarrassed and uncomfortable when they see her body is different from others.

Who will volunteer joy to this ruined

Bequest, or risk his neck

In a noose of those dwarf and twisted arms?

Waiting for visitors

She sits, tied to a chair by rag doll legs.

In this stanza, the speaker talks about the girl's body, characterizing it as 'ruined' because of her disability. Her body is viewed as broken or damaged gift that has been ruined. The speaker examines who would take on the responsibility of loving or caring for her, comparing it to a dangerous 'noose,' or trap created by her tiny and twisted arms. This indicates that others perceive her situation as challenging and hazardous.

She always smiles. Her face wears bright uniforms—

A government in exile

Without courage to advertise despair.

Negotiating self-deceit

We speak cheerfully of recovery

This section shows the girl is perpetually smiling, yet it's an insincere or artificial smile, like a 'bright uniform' that hides her sorrow. Her genuine emotions, her anguish, and sadness are concealed, similar to a government compelled to function in exile. She lacks the bravery to express her sadness openly, thus she continues to fake happiness. The individuals surrounding her also fool themselves. They discuss her 'recovery' in a cheerful manner, pretending she will improve shortly, despite secretly understanding that her condition is not temporary. This illustrates their discomfort with her reality and how they escape from the truth of her situation.

As if she had a cold. Tied to its chair,

Her smiling image waits

Every day for what cannot happen.

Nagged by an odd discomfort

We resolve never to visit her again.

In the last stanza of the poem, the speaker discloses how people around the girl behave as if her disability is as insignificant as a 'cold,' a temporary issue that will ultimately fade away. Nonetheless, her condition is permanent and will be lifelong. She is bound to its chair, unable to move freely. Despite of this, she continues to smile, looking forward to each day for something that will never happen, like a miracle. Those in her surrounding experience a subtle sense of unease or guilt when they see her. Rather than supporting they completely avoid her. This emotion leads her to more distress and abandonment, making her even more alone.

Findings

Metaphor

"Her body is a country uprooted by earthquake. A landscape of stumps." (Line 9, 10):

In these lines, her impaired body is used as a metaphor, which is compared to a country damaged by an earthquake. The use of the metaphor of 'a landscape of stumps' signifies her bodily limitations, showing that her body has been crushed and disabled, much like a barren field.

"Her face wears bright uniforms—a government in exile" (Line 16, 17):

The phrase "bright uniform" is used figuratively to describe her smile, suggesting that she conceals her true emotions behind a facade of happiness. The mention of "a government in exile" implies that her genuine feelings are kept hidden from the public.

Simile

"Tied to a chair by rag doll legs"(Line 15):

The girl's legs in this line are compared to those of a rag doll, showing that they are limp and lifeless they are unable to support her. This comparison highlights her physical weakness and powerlessness, which illustrates her dependence on others.

"As if she had a cold"(Line 21):

The speaker uses "cold" as a metaphor to compare it to her condition, suggesting that society minimizes or downplays her disability as if it were just a temporary issue. This simile illustrates how society tries to diminish the seriousness of her condition, treating it as if it were a minor matter.

Personification

"Eyes turn back embarrassed by a wrong address" (Line 8):

Here in this phrase, eyes are used as a personification as they experience feelings of 'embarrassment' or awkwardness. This indicates that when people see her disability, they quickly divert their sight as they are made uncomfortable. This is the main example of personification in this poem. It demonstrates how individuals attempt to overlook the reality of her disability. The poem primarily employs metaphors and similes to convey its themes, and this instance of personification highlights the discomfort and evasiveness of society regarding her condition.

Symbols

"Pretty girl":

The girl in the poem symbolizes youth and beauty and shows that how the being externally beautiful can create opportunities in society, like getting married.

"Fine map of her face":

The expression 'fine map of her face' symbolizes her appearance and how it conceals the real suffering and challenges she endures internally. It shows that there is more to her than what is visible to others on the surface.

"Rag doll legs":

It symbolizes helplessness and dependency. It compares her legs to a rag doll, illustrating their weakness and incapability, representing her physical vulnerability.

"Cold":

Her condition is compared to a "cold" symbolizing how people minimize her disability, suggesting that instead of considering it as a permanent issue people treat it as a minor and temporary issue.

Irony

"She could have married well with those looks.":(Line 5)

This statement shows the presence of irony in the poem which contrasts society's expectations with the harsh reality of the girl's life. Despite being beautiful and should be considered a great match for marriage, her disability leads others to overlook her potential. She loses her opportunities because of the society that only sees her disability.

"Negotiating self-deceit, we speak cheerfully of recovery as if she had a cold."(Line 19, 20):

The irony in this situation is that people talk about her disability as if it's a minor and temporary issue, the same as a cold. However, in reality, her condition is lifelong. People prefer to be unaware of her struggle and pain because it is more simple and easier for them than facing the harsh reality.

"Her smiling image waits every day for what cannot happen."(Line 22,23):

The "smiling image" is used as an irony here, waiting for the time that will never come in the future. Her cheerful appearance is a sign of a false hope that things might change somehow. The lines uncover the sorrow and hopelessness she feels for herself, which is hidden behind her false smile.

Imagery

"Her body is a country uprooted by earthquake. A landscape of stumps."(Line 9,10):

This line in the poem Cripple by Maki Kureishi uses to paint vivid imagery and picture to evoke the physical and emotional experience of the disabled girl by comparing her body to a country that an earthquake has destroyed. Her body is much like a broken and damaged land after a natural disaster. The "landscape of stumps" further picturizes that some parts of her body are incomplete and can't function completely. This line helps the readers to visualize and imagine her condition in real-time.

"Tied to a chair by rag doll legs."(Line 15):

This line creates an image of how she has weak and limp legs like a rag doll's legs that can't hold any weight or move independently. The expression 'tied to a chair' shows her confines

to a single place that can't move freely. The readers here can visualize a strong picture of her restrictions and helplessness.

"Her face wears bright uniforms—a government in exile." (Line 16,17):

This image demonstrates that she wears a bright uniform on her face, indicating a happy and cheerful smile on her face. However, her true feelings, sorrows, and despairs are hidden away, like a government in exile. Despite being alone and hurt she wears a warm smile and conceals her genuine feelings.

Poem: 2 Curfew Summer

Summer clocks in at eight. By now

Most plants have dried to a rasping brown

And the grass burns to its roots.

The poem opens with the line, summer clocks in at eight, which indicates that the summer season has completely arrived and is in full swing. The plants are getting dry and becoming brown, and the grass is so dry that it is burning down to its roots. This picture of these plants shows the severity of the climate and the difficult circumstances experienced by people.

Only the bougainvillea flags

its violent colours – dissident

in a brutal summer.

The poet in this stanza introduces a plant named bougainvillea that has the ability to stand out even in intense heat and maintains its vibrant colors. The term, dissident, suggests that it is resisting by surviving in a brutal summer. Here Maki Kureishi, through the use of this plant, points out to those individuals or concepts that resist the harsh surroundings.

No one may walk next door.

Yet from house to house the grapevine runs:

Arrested! Bombed!

In the first line of this stanza, No one may walk next door, Maki Kureishi describes a sense of isolation, and however, still information travels from one home to the next. The word grapevine is used as a metaphor which implies that despite people being unable to visit one another, the information circulates freely like a plant of grapevine does. All the reports of arrests and bombings are spread so rapidly that they highlight the tense and violent atmosphere.

Two hundred shot! Long used

to a seasonal withering, each summer

we die nearer the root.

The speaker reflects on how individuals are getting weaker every summer, similar to plants dying nearer the root. This seasonal withering suggests that hardship is a frequent experience that they face regularly, and as the summer appears every year, it draws them nearer to a breaking point.

Envy the sparrows! They forage

without a Pass, shrieking all over the city

reckless, uncensored opinions.

In the last stanza of the poem, the speaker admires sparrows, who can visit the city freely without requiring permission and express their reckless and uncensored opinions vocally. This freedom contrasts sharply with the limitations individuals face, emphasizing a desire for freedom of movement and expression.

Findings

Personification

'Summer clocks in at eight' (Line, 1):

The line portrays summer as if it has a specific time to start, similar to an employee starting their work shift. Here summer is personified with human-like qualities, as if it can clock in or start its duties. By portraying it this way, the poem suggests that summer has its own routine and arrives powerfully and punctually every day.

'the grapevine runs' (Line, 8):

In the phrase, the grapevine runs, the grapevine is personified as if it can run or move between houses, the same as the people share information from house to house. Normally a grapevine is a plant that cannot move by itself. However, here it is attributed with human-like characteristics and gives it an appearance of being alive and dynamic. This personification implies that the news or any gossip is spread rapidly between individuals as if it possesses its own life.

Metaphor

'the grass burns to its roots.' (Line, 3):

By using this line, the poet shows that the heat is so extreme that it not only desiccates the grass but burns it to its roots. This demonstrates the power and destructiveness of the heat, and how it damages the grass at its fundamental level. In this manner, the poet refers to individuals who feel pressure, similar to the grass, which is impacted significantly, not just on the surface.

Only the bougainvillea flags / its violent colours (Line, 4, 5):

The poet here compares the vibrant colors of the bougainvillea to flags. Similar to a flag being raised to convey a message or demonstrate loyalty, the colors of the bougainvillea appear to stand out boldly. The term violent here contributes to the impression that these colors are vivid and forceful, which does not mix with a dull environment. Through this description of colors, the poet suggests that the bougainvillea is not just surviving but flourishing boldly and fighting the harsh and barren summer.

Symbolism

“Bougainvillea”:

In the poem, the bougainvillea here symbolizes strength and to keep flourishing, even during difficult periods. As most plants dry out and appear lifeless in the harsh summer, however, the bougainvillea is the plant that keeps its bright, 'violent colors.' These strong colors make it stand out in a landscape where everything else is faded and dull. This shows that the bougainvillea not only survives but stands out boldly and does not fade away. The bougainvillea symbolizes people who persevere and stay strong, even when their surroundings seem to push them down or quiet them.

“Grapevine”:

The Grapevine here symbolizes the quick spreading of the news, especially bad news or rumors, from one person to another. It does not matter whether people are allowed to visit each other or not, Information still spreads from house to house, same as the plant of grapevine. This shows the connection of people in that community even in tough times, how news travels quickly, adding to the worry and tension felt by everyone in the society.

“Sparrows”:

The sparrows here symbolize freedom and strength. Unlike people who endure restrictions and must obtain a Pass or permission to wander, sparrows are free to move to any location they want. They search for food throughout the city without any obstruction. This shows the sparrows' freedom, which every individual desires to possess. This demonstration of sparrows' ability to move freely, even in difficult times, represents a form of resilience or strength that is admired by people. They remind the people of their natural right to freedom and the ability to keep going despite challenges.

Irony

“Envy the sparrows!”

The line Envy the sparrows contain irony since people usually would not consider envying small birds. In this place, people feel jealousy towards the sparrows for their freedom, which people of the city did not have. This difference between the freedom of the small birds and the restrictions on humans show the controlling and oppressive nature of the environment over people.

Alliteration

“Rasping Brown”

The poet repeats the 'r' sound in the expression 'rasping brown'. This repetition causes the words to sound rough and harsh which aligns with the dryness and toughness of summer. Through this sound, the poet leads the readers to experience the dry and severe nature of the hot summer, creating an impression that summer itself is harsh and uncomfortable.

Hyperbole

"Each summer we die nearer the root"

The poet in this phrase uses exaggeration to show the extent of people's tiredness. Every hot summer makes them feel more vulnerable as if they are getting closer to death or completely giving up. The line nearer the root suggests that this exhaustion goes deep and reaches the core same like a plant that is drying up from its roots. This shows that during each summer, people experience increased fatigue both physically and emotionally.

Conclusion

Kureishi effectively uses various figures of speech in both *Cripple* and *Curfew Summer* to highlight social and emotional struggles faced by people. Kureishi explores the themes of isolation, resilience, and struggles by using various figures of speech in the poems. In the first poem *Cripple*, the poet uses the phrase landscape of stumps symbolically, referring to the girl's body which is physically restricted. This thing also depicts the harsh attitude of society's people towards her disability. Likewise, she uses some more figures of speech as well, such as comparing her legs to a rag dolls, highlighting her helplessness. The study shows that how these figures of speech effectively portray the arguments between girls' internal thoughts and the society's flaws in giving support? This research also provides an insightful look on the figurative language used in Kureishi's poem *Curfew Summer*. In this poem, she gives summer a human quality that it is something that clocks in every year. Kureishi also describes how the cruel weather affects both nature and people. The poem produces metaphors such as the grass burning to its roots which represents the extremity of heat, referring to the stress and tiredness people feel in repressive conditions. The line grapevine running in the poem *Curfew Summer* is personified as it says that how the news spreads quickly despite having so many restrictions. The bougainvillea plant described in the poem *Curfew Summer* symbolizes the toughness and resistance of people who stands out in every difficult condition. Kureishi's use of figurative language plays a significant role in supporting the themes, existing in each poem. She expertly leads her readers to feel or relate with the challenges her characters face and the problems of the society they endure. This employment of figures of speech is not just fit in these poems rather it is an essential element in supporting her themes, aiding readers to connect profoundly with the experiences and feelings of her characters.

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